

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House, the Senate and the President for having the courage to attack the important issue of health care. I also want to recognize that the legislation passed by this House in November takes a huge leap forward in addressing the issue of paying for value in health care.

The current payment system rewards volume and quantity rather than quality and outcomes. We waste hundreds of billions of dollars every year on tests and procedures that do not improve patient health. We need to change the incentive system. We need doctors and hospitals to work together to coordinate care based around patient need.

In my district in southern Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic has done exactly that. There are other institutions around the country that also provide high-quality, low-cost, efficient care. This is the one issue that both sides can agree on.

Yesterday in Roll Call, led by the Mayo Clinic, the Chamber of Commerce, Cleveland Clinic and other insurers, they stated: reforming health care in America will not become easier with the passage of time. We encourage all stakeholders, government officials, patients, families, insurers, doctors and nurses to work together to pass reforms that provide quality, affordable health care for Americans. This is the path to true health care reform that will strengthen our economy, take care of America's families, and grow jobs.

AMERICAN HEALTH CARE 1; CANADIAN HEALTH CARE ZERO

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Premier of Newfoundland, Danny Williams, snuck into the United States recently for some stealth health care. Now, why would the Canadian Premier come to the United States for heart surgery? Because his life depended on it.

"My heart, my choice, my health" he proclaimed. When it came down to it, he didn't trust his life to Canada's government-run health care system. Imagine that.

The Canadian Premier said after the very successful American heart surgery, "I did not sign away my right to get the best possible health care for myself when I entered politics."

The American people have said they don't want to be forced into signing their lives away with government-run health care either. When life and death decisions are put in the hands of government bureaucrats, it's unhealthy for everybody.

Just ask the Canadian Premier. When it came down to a matter of his own life or death decision, the Canadian Premier chose private health care and American heart surgeons over the Canadian nationalized system.

Sounds like "private health care for me, but not for thee."

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER STRAUSS

(Mr. DRIEHAUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, last week Cincinnati lost a committed public servant and a valued friend when Pete Strauss passed away.

Pete served on the Cincinnati City Council from 1981 until 1993, serving part of that time as the city's vice mayor. More than just a politician, Pete was a leader, a person who truly embodied the virtues of leadership. He sought office not out of personal ambition, but from a desire to improve the lives of those in our community. He served Cincinnati, not with a political or partisan agenda, but to get results for the people and city he represented.

When I was a young man with a growing interest in government, I and many others like me looked up to Pete Strauss as the kind of public servant we have since aspired to become.

Pete's character was beyond question, and his bravery was exhibited in his courageous fight against Parkinson's. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Kitty, his sons, Mike and Matt, and all of the city that he loved and served for so long. Thank you, Pete.

AMERICAN CONSERVATION AND CLEAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE ACT

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in today's news, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke, warned that huge deficits and borrowing place us at risk for high inflation and high interest rates.

Add this to the high unemployment, borrowing from China and buying huge amounts of oil from OPEC, and we have to recognize we've got a mess on our hands.

But there is a solution. We can create jobs and grow our economy without raising taxes. It is the bipartisan American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act, H.R. 2227. This bill uses the trillions of dollars from oil and gas exploration off our coast to drive conservation and new technologies to improve energy efficiency; develop clean-energy generation and infrastructure; rebuild America's inefficient transportation system; and clean our air and water. Not only will we be creating a clean energy future, but creating millions of good-paying jobs for years to come.

The news tells us of how things are, but that's not how it has to be. Join me in supporting the American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act.

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR HAITI

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, despite the economic pain felt by so many American families, we've seen something truly amazing in the extent to which Americans have come together to address the tragedy of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

I'm proud to stand here this morning to highlight two organizations based in my district who have done wonderful work. Save the Children, Westport, Connecticut, run by Charlie McCormack, has 50 people on the ground that have touched half a million Haitians with medical, food and other sorts of aid. Americare is based in Stamford, Connecticut, and run by Curt Welling. The earthquake had barely stopped before they had teams on the ground providing medical relief; and they have pledged \$50 million to rebuild the Haitian health care system.

I rise today to highlight, to honor and to thank these two wonderful organizations and to urge them to keep up the good work. Thank you, Save the Children, thank you, Americare, for all that you have done.

HONORING RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION'S CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chaplain Phillip "Endel" Lee, Jr., the 2010 recipient of the Reserve Officers Association Chaplain of the Year Award, who is currently serving in my district.

I also congratulate him and thank him for delivering the opening prayer here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. His prayer was powerful and moving and reminded us that we are "Americans promoting freedom, responsible for our actions, and dedicated to the principles that made us free."

Chaplain Lee has always been a beacon of hope to those facing immense tragedies. He rescued survivors off rooftops during Hurricane Katrina and prayed at Ground Zero with the families of victims of September 11.

I am proud to have Chaplain Lee serving in my congressional district. I thank him for his leadership in the spiritual rebuilding of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, and I speak for all of us here when I thank him and his family's service to and sacrifice for this great Nation.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, the people I represent in Connecticut, those who buy their health